## OLIVER S. STORCH

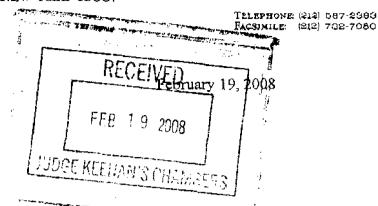
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## **BY FACSIMILE**

The Honorable J. John F. Keenan United States District Court Judge United States Courthouse Southern District of New York 500 Pearl St., Room, 1930 New York, New York 10007



Re: United States v. Francis Alberto Hilario Case No. 07-CR-1034 (JFK)

Your Honor:

Greetings. Mr. Hilario is scheduled for a status conference before Your Honor on February 20, 2008 at 10:00 am.

The Defense has received discovery from the Government.

The Defense and the Government are engaged in ongoing plea discussions which may result in the disposition of this matter without a trial.

For the foregoing reasons, the Defense respectfully requests that the status conference be continued until March 20, 2008 at 9:45 am., a time and date convenient to the Court as per your Courtroom Deputy, Mr. Bill Ryan.

A.U.S.A Kenneth Polite joins in this continuance request.

The Defense and the Government therefore respectfully request an exclusion of time under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. 3161 (h) (8) (A) from February 20, 2008, until March 20, 2008 at 9:45 am., on the grounds that the ends of justice served by the exclusion outweigh the interest of the defendant and the public in a speedy trial.

Respectfully Submitted,

OS/ns

cc: A.U.S.A. Kenneth A. Polite

eens United States District Court Judge